

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 206

READER'S DIGEST
OCTOBER 1982

The KGB's Magical War for "Peace"

BY JOHN BARRON

IN THE OLD LUBYANKA PRISON on Dzerzhinsky Square in Moscow, the screams of the tortured and the pleas of the doomed are heard no more.

Drunken executioners no longer ram pistols into backs of heads and blow out the faces of "enemies of the people." No longer must cleaning crews come every few hours to wash blood from the stone walls, swab gore off the oak floors and cart away former comrades' remains.

Today the Communist Party torturers and executioners perform their duties elsewhere, and Lubyanka, whose name still kindles fear in Russians, has undergone a reincarnation. Unknown to the general public, its cells, torture chambers and execution cellars have been remodeled into offices and made part of the "Center"—the headquarters of the Committee for State Security, or KGB.

Sitting in a mahogany-paneled office on the third floor of Lubyanka is the new KGB chairman, Vitaly Fedorchuk. He must still concern himself, first of all, with the continuing subjugation of the Soviet people on behalf of the Party. He and his deputies must still supervise some 5000 KGB officers abroad who daily endeavor to steal the scientific, military and state secrets of other nations. But today, as never before, the KGB leadership is preoccupied with prosecution of what the Russians call Active Measures.

As a result of a disastrous KGB loss, the West has gained encyclo-

tures, while unmasking Soviet tactics and key KGB operatives.

"Few people who understand the reality of the Soviet Union will knowingly support it or its policies," Levchenko states. "So by Active Measures, the KGB distorts or inverts reality. The trick is to make people support Soviet policy unwittingly by convincing them they are supporting something else. Almost everybody wants peace and fears war. Therefore, by every conceivable means, the KGB plans and coordinates campaigns to persuade the public that whatever America does endangers peace and that whatever the Soviet Union proposes furthers peace. To be for America is to be for war; to be for the Soviets is to be for peace. That's the art of Active Measures, a sort of made-in-Moscow black magic. It is tragic to see how well it works."

Today, the KGB is concentrating on one of the largest Active Meas-

FROM A FORTHCOMING BOOK BY JOHN BARRON TO BE PUBLISHED IN 1983 BY READER'S DIGEST PRESS
200 PARK AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10166

CONTINUED